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International Court of Justice

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28 June 1946
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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. McIlwraith

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at ~~2:4~~ ~~1545~~ 11.45 hours.)

PAUL WOLF, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY MR. McILWRAITH:

Q. Will you state your full name?

A. Paul Wolf.

Q. Will you raise your right hand, and repeat after me?

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the ~~whole~~ pure truth and will withhold and ~~hide~~ all nothing.

(The witness repeats the oath.)

BY DR. NATH:

Q The witness was a zellenleiter in Western Germany. I shall hear the witness regarding the tasks and duties of a zellenleiter in a rural district in Germany. The place is ~~Saarbruecken~~ Saarbruecken in the Saar District. The witness is to be heard regarding the most essential charges regarding conspiracy--which is to be seen particularly in certain points of the Party Program. I shall hear him regarding the persecution of the Jews, persecution of the Church, a few questions pertaining to the destruction of trade unions, euthanasia; and I shall ask him regarding the points made by the Prosecution--war crimes, and breaches of the customs of war.

Q. Will you please give a personal history very briefly.

A. I was a locksmith. I worked at my profession. I was a soldier from 1914 to 1918. Again I worked at my profession. Beginning with 1923 I trained apprentices and craftsmen in technical schools. That is what I have done until now.

Q. When did you join the Party, and what were your motives?

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A. I joined the Party on ~~the~~ 3 December 1935. There was a certain pressure on the part of the authorities, and on the part of the Party. After the incorporation of the Saar District into the Reich, we received questionnaires which asked for Party membership.

Q. Were you a member of another party before 1933?

A. No, before 1933 I did not belong to any Party.

Q. Were you a trade union member before 1933?

A. Yes, I was in the league of technical industrial civil servants.

Q. Give us the dates of your having been block and zellen leiter.

A. In March, 1938 I was given the office of blockleiter, and in March 1941 the duties of a zellenleiter.

Q. Were you sworn in when you were a blockleiter?

A. Yes, I do not remember when, but in any case I was sworn in as blockleiter.

Q. As a blockleiter, did you receive a political leader's certification card?

A. Yes, I received a temporary identification.

Q. How about when you were made zellenleiter?

A. The war caused shortages of useable people for this post.

MR. McILWRAITH: That does not answer the question.

(The question is repeated.)

A. No, I received nothing, and nothing in writing either.

~~Qx~~ MR. McILWRAITH: Was that because there was a shortage in wartime...

A. It was like this: We were appointed only temporarily. ~~One~~ It was intended after the war, and even perhaps ~~x~~ during ~~the~~ war time, to have these groups filled with full-time employees.

Q. Were there directives to Party members to accept Party jobs?

A. Yes. In my time it was already that way. As civil servants, we had to accept such jobs. Many authorities even asked their laborers to take some active

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part.

Q. Was it permissable to resign from a Party office for political reasons?

A. xxxx Yes, one could resign; but one immediately would have lost one's job. The reason given was that rejection of the Party, since Party and State were one, meant the rejection of the State, also.

Q. Will you first describe the task and duties of a blockleiter, and then those of a zellenleiter?

A. Before the war, the main thing was to collect dues. Invitations to meetings were distributed. Lists were made concerning the composition of the district. Care was taken of wives of soldiers who were drafted, such as to bring them coal or chop wood for them. To help with the collection of clothes, shoes, and paper. Those were the tasks of the blockleiter.

Q. What were the tasks of the zellenleiter?

A. The zellenleiter presented the intermediary point between the ortsgruppen- xxx leiter and the blockleiter. They heard directives and transferred the results of these directives back to the ortsgruppenleiter.

Q. Did the blockleiter have a staff?

A. Whenever necessary, there were simply aids. For instance, we lived on the edge of the city. The farms are far apart. It caused a lot of running around, and in those districts the aids were put with practically the same tasks as the blockleiter. Those were usually women,or perhaps older schoolboys. There was no xxxx question of any staff, because the personnel changed constantly. Xxxxxx Anyone might be told to do something.

Q. The Prosecution has exempted the members of the staff of the ortsgruppen- leiter from the charges. Were the block and zellen leiters the superiors of the members of the staff of the ortsgruppenleiter?

A. No; quite the contrary. The amtsleiter gave us orders and directives.

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Q. The Prosecution has characterized block letiers as the "little Caesars terrorizing the residents of their blocks." They were the police in Hitler Germany." Will you please elucidate?

A. No. It was a relationship based on mutual confidence, for the people came when they were in need of any sort--for instance, a woman didn't know which way to turn with all the work she had, children at home; and during the war one had to go and pick up things--consumers goods which otherwise had been delivered to the door. Women came and asked for help. If women had to make applications to some authority and did not know how to formulate it. I have done that several times, for instance pertaining to insurance/ indemnity claims; and once I procured a horse for a farmer. I took care of seeing the right people.

Q. That's enough. Did the block and zellen leiters have authority to confiscate property or to deprive the residents of their section of life or liberty?

A. That was impossible. If anything happened, we had the police. That was none of our business.

Q. Were you authorized to request that the SA be sent to help you to execute your tasks?

A. That, too, was impossible. The SA was an entirely independent organization which would not permit us to give them orders. On the contrary, we were ordered by the SA--that is to say, during wartime only. In the last period, caused by the air attacks, certain einsatzgruppen (commitment groups) were formed to remove rubble and to give aid. Here, always, SA people were the leaders.

Q. Did the block and zellen leiters have any connection with any other Nazi organization--for instance, Gestapo and SD?

A. No, there was no connection there at all.

Q. Did the block and zellen leiters have to supervise Party officials and were they their superiors?

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A. Block and zellen leiters represented the lowest level of officials. Party officials were permitted to tell them anything or do anything about them. That was never the task, nor has anyone ever said anything like that.

Q. The Organizations Book reads in one place that the blockleiter has to report to the ortsgruppenleiter any dissemination of rumors, so that the competent State authority may be notified. Did the superior Party authorities, or anybody else, ask the block and zellen leiters to inform on the residents of their block?

A. No. Here, too, it was the other way around. It was supposed to be a relationship based on confidence. If anything really happened somewhere, one was to clarify matters and exert a calming influence. In no way were we supposed to disquiet the people by causing them to have a suspicion that someone may have maligned them.

Q. Do you know of any case where a block and zellen leiter has informally talked to a resident and got his political opinion from him--and then reported him?

A. No, I do not know of any such case in my own district.

Q. Did you know, in your capacity as block and zellen leiter, the Organizations Book--or do you know its contents?

A. No. I have never heard of it, and I never saw it--even at the ortsgruppe.

Q. How many meetings took place with the ortsgruppenleiter where a block and zellen leiters were asked to attend?

A. Only on special occasions were block leiters asked to attend--when something pertaining to their particular duties came up. Zellenleiters, however, twice weekly. We went there to pick up our directives. Everyone had a pigeonhole. Then the execution of the directive was clarified.

Q. In your district, what were the professions which composed the block and zellen leiter group?

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A. With us it was the lower professional groups; for instance, telegraph operators, furnace stokers, mail and postal employees, artisans, carpenters, locksmiths.

Q. Were there civil servants among you, too?

A. There were civil servants--postal employees, railroad employees.

Q. That is enough. I now wish to direct another question to you. The Organizations Book characterizes the block and zellen leiter as hoheitstraeger. What was your concept of the meaning of "hoheitstraeger" and the concepts of the block and zellen leiters with whom you were acquainted?

A. We never claimed that designation for ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ ourselves. We never independently gave any political directives. We only received directives and transferred them. They were complete already--either as an order or as a directive.

Q. Who, in your opinion, exercised the ~~xxx~~ sovereign privileges and, consequently, can be called "hoheitstraeger"?

A. The ~~xxx~~ ortsgruppenleiter and, going up, the kreisleiter and the~~xxxx~~ gauleiter. They did all~~xx~~ that.

Q. Was it like that until the end--as long as you were a zellenleiter?

A. Yes.

Q. If the court permits, I should like to introduce four short documents ~~x~~ into the records, which will prove that the Party leadership did not designate or recognise the block and zellen leiters as hohsitstraegers in practice. I have had the documents translated. Unfortunately, I was able to receive only the English and French translation ~~xxxx~~ up to this point. The documents are numbered, PL 1, 2, 3, 4. I shall quote the basic contents briefly: The first copy derives from the administration of the National Socialist German Workers Party, by Dr. Anton Link, who was on the staff of the Reich Treasury in Munich in 1940. I quote from Page 51, "The Hoheitstraeger Right of the NSDAP and its Aspects." "For the purpose

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of fulfilling its task, the Party comprises four sovereign areas, (1) Reich, (2) gau, (3) kreis, and (4) ortsgruppe. Each of these sovereign areas is headed by the hoheitstraeger, the Fuehrer, the gauleiter, the kreisleiter, the ortsgruppenleiter." The second document is issued by the Party Chancellery, dated 1937, and called "Decrees, Orders, and Announcements." It directs on the treatment of complaints, and tells the hoheitstraeger to treat complaints in a certain way. The pertinent paragraph of this document, at the end, reads, I quote, "The final decision in each case lies with the hoheitstraeger only; that is to say, the ortsgruppenleiter, the kreisleiter, the gauleiter, In the last resort, if the decision does not lie with the Fuehrer himself, with the Chief of the Party Chancellery." This enumeration shows the hoheitstraeger as they were in practice. Document 3 is dated...

MR. McILWRAITH: Before you continue this, Dr. Nath... I think my translation is wrong. It says that the final decision..." and in the last resort", I have got the word "if"--"if the decision does not lie with the Fuehrer..."

COLONEL GRIFFITH-JONES: Yes, I think that is right.

INTERPRETER: It would mean "unless" the Fuehrer himself makes the decision.

MR. McILWRAITH: Yes, I see it now.

BY DR. NATH:

Q. The third document is taken from the third volume of the same book, No. PL 3. The excerpt is from Page 301. It concerns itself with the care and relief by the Party for the armed forces with food parcels and donations, dated 24 February 1940. The directive shown here, under No. 4, I quote: "The hoheitstraeger of the Party--gauleiters, kreisleiters, and ortsgruppenleiters--with the participation of the formation of coordinated associations, are to arrange for the distribution of all available gifts to all persons drafted from their territories for service, regardless of whether or not they belong to the Party or one of its organizations." Here, too, the document enumerates the hoheitstraeger as they

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were in reality. The fourth document is taken from the official journal of the NSDAP, showing the figure 18, fourth series, 31-41. It is a publication of the year, 1941. It concerns itself with the entering of places which have suffered air raid damage. I want to point out especially that this is a decree of Hitler himself, which emanated from Fuehrer headquarters 25 April 1941. He designated certain persons to be authorized to enter damaged places while trying to repair that damage. Among these persons are mentioned the hoheitstraeger-- Page II-c of the document enumerates the hoheitstraeger. I quote: "The competent hoheitstraeger (ortsgruppenleiter, kreisleiter, gauleiter, or their representatives)." These four documents show that, in practice, block and zellen leiters were not considered to be hoheitstraegers. Were you acquainted with the publication, "Der Hoheitstraeger"?

A. I do not know of the publication, and this is the first time I have heard of it. I have never seen it at the office of the ortsgruppenleiter either.

Q. Do you know whether the block and zellen leiter with whom you were acquainted belonged to the Christian religion?

A. Yes.

Q. Did these people participate in church services or processions?

A. Those who were Catholics regularly attended services and took part in the processions. Enemies of the Party, or people of a different religion, can confirm this.

Q. Did any Party authority direct the block and zellen leiter to resign from the Church?

A. No.

Q. The Corps of Political Leiters has been charged with participating in a conspiracy, the aims of which were crimes against peace, breach of the customs of war, and crimes against humanity. Certain parts of the Party Program are

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being submitted by the Prosecution on which to ~~a~~ base their claim. I should like you to elucidate certain points of this program.

MR. McILWRAITH: How much longer will you be with this witness?

DR. NATH: Three quarters of an hour.

MR. McILWRAITH: Very well, then I will dismiss the other one until two o'clock.

BY DR. NATH:

Q. Regarding the union of a greater Germany, Point One of the Party Program reads, "We demand the union of all Germans on the basis of the self-determination of all people." Will you please let us know your opinion from the point of view of the block and zellen leiter?

A. The fourteen points of President Wilson mentioned the right of self-determination of all people.

~~Q~~x COLONEL KAREV: We do not need any lectures on international law and the statements of President Wilson.

DR. NATH: I think that the witness merely wants to make a short explanation regarding the fact that this point of the Party Program at that time did not mean that aggressive war ~~x~~ would be the result. Will you please answer very briefly, Witness.

BY DR. NATH:

Q. Did the block and zellen leiters consider this point as indicative of an aggressive war?

A. No, it only wanted to bring the German people together.

Q. How? Peacefully, or by war?

A. Peacefully. ~~xxxxx~~ During the last years in the Atlantic Charter, also, self-determination has been mentioned again and again.

Q. Point Three of the Party Program reads: "We demand land and soil

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(colonies) in order to settle our surplus population and to increase the food of our people." Did the Political Leiters with whom you were acquainted consider this point of the Program as a plan of conquest of foreign territory?

MR. McILWRAITH: For how many Political ~~Leiters~~ Leaders can you speak?

WITNESS: In my district, there were about twenty.

XMRXXMcXIENRAITHX

DR. NATH: It is only a matter here that the evidence of the witness is typical.

MR. McILWRAITH: I want to know of how many it was typical, and now I have the answer.

DR. NATH: The witnesses were picked completely without forethought from all territories of the Reich.

BY DR. NATH:

Q. Will you please answer the question?

A. No; because this is how it was: We always had difficulty with food in Germany. One square kilo had to produce food for 135 persons. In France, there are nine, and in England, thirteen. That includes colonial possessions. And the Program point mentions specifically colonies. Thus, we thought that alleviation would be brought about by the return of the colonies.

Q. What was the reaction of the block and zellen leiters in September 1939, when war broke out?

A. Very regrettable, because everybody was depressed and serious. The lowest levels always duffer most.

Q. Point Four of the Party Program mentions about the differentiation of the value of races: "Only a person who is a volksgenosse can be a citizen, and a volksgenosse can be only someone of German blood, without regard to religion. That is why no Jew can become a volksgenosse." This, no doubt, was disadvan-

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tageous to citizens of the Jewish faith, and in practice this point of the Program brought about the most horrible Jewish persecution. What was the understanding of this program point on the side of the Political Leiters to which you belonged--that is to say, of the block and zellen leiters?

A. No one could help being what he is; he is not responsible for his origin. In our opinion, it was wrong to fight against someone merely because he happened to be Jewish. This point of view was general with us.

Q. I should like to consolidate. Did the block and zellen leiters consider the Party Program points as a basis for the conspiracy of conquest, both of their own nation and other nations, then to commit crimes against peace and against humanity?

MR. McILWRAITH: Those are two questions. Ask him two questions separately.

A. No, because normally the thought of a peaceful solution prevailed. Block and zellen leiters were not made acquainted with the plans and intentions. The things didn't seem to go so far for us, because normally the block and zellen leiters did not bother much to interpret the individual parts.

BY DR. NATH:

Q. Did block and zellen leiters have any way by which they might have influence on the laws?

A. No; the block and zellen leiters had absolutely no influence on the passage of laws. The laws came to us ready-made, and there was nothing we could do.

Q. Now, the struggle against the Church. The Prosecution has submitted Document PS 070, USA 371. It refers to National Socialist school celebrations. The letter comes from the deputy of the Fuehrer, and is addressed to Rosenberg: "The religious morning services in the schools are being gotten rid of. Six

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Similarly, in the different sections of the Reich, the religious as well as the general religious prayers were being substituted for National Socialist mottoes." Did the Party leadership inform you on these things?

A. We heard nothing from the Party leadership. Rather fromthe population, on whom it had an effect. In Saarland between 1936 and 1937 the denominational school was done away with. But the State did that--the Ministry of Education. The parents were asked whether they would decide in favor of a religious school or a denominational school.

Q. Great numbers of ministers were arrested, put into concentration camps, and possessions of the Church were confiscated. Did the Party leadership inform the blockleiters of the reasons for these arrests and confiscations? Was it a task of the block and zellen leiter to participate in any manner in these things?

A. No ministers were arrested in my district. I have heard of it from other districts or from the pulpit in the church. The newspapers distorted the facts. The block and zellen leiters had nothing to do with it at all.

Q. In the ensuing period, the persecution of the Jews became worse and worse. Jews were designated by a yellow star, they received less food coupons, they were dispossessed ~~from~~ their apartments, finally they were deported and thrown into concentration camps. Will you please, in your capacity as block and zellen leiter, elucidate in particular whether the block and zellen leiters were concerned with that in any shape or way.

A. The block and zellen leiters did not participate in it. Definitely not in our district. As far as I know, the others, I do not think so either, because it did not come from our ortsgruppe. There was nothing there. That was a surprise for everybody; every decent person turned away from that.

MR. McILWRAITH: What was the population of your district?

WITNESS: Between five and six ~~thousand~~ hundred.

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MR. Mc ILWRAITH: And how many block ~~xxxxxxxx~~ leiters were there in it?

WITNESS: Five.

MR. McILWRAITH: And how many zellen leiters?

WITNESS: One.

DR. NATH: You stated before that you were acquainted with more.

WITNESS: That was a misunderstanding. I thought you were referring to the entire district.

~~MR. McILWRAITH: It is getting near one o'clock.~~

~~COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: We have to come back after lunch anyway.~~

BY DR. NATH:

Q. Regarding the destruction of the free trade unions. Do you know where the initiative for the destruction came from?

A. No, but it did not emanate from the Party. At that time the ~~zeilamt~~ Saarland was not ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ reincorporated into the Reich. I cannot say anything about the Reich;

Q. Were you acquainted with the Einsatzstab Rosenberg?

A. The first time I heard of it was right here in the Trials.

Q. Regarding the breach of the rules of war. Did the block and zellen leiter receive directives regarding the treatment of enemy fliers who had performed emergency landings?

A. No, never.

Q. Did you hear, directly or indirectly, from the Party that if someone should mistreat an enemy flier who ~~xxxx~~ made an emergency landing, this person would not be punished for it?

A. No, but the newspapers sometimes published critical remarks. We did not receive any directives.

Q. Were the block and zellen leiter in any way connected with prisoners

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of war or foreign labor?

A. There were no directives. I did know foreign laborers who worked as housemaids. They were well off. I have an address of someone who was in our neighborhood--a Ukrainian girl. She received dresses and shoes--and mail was even transmitted to her parents. There was a good relationship.

Q. Last question, Witness. Did you ever hear about euthanasia, by which physicians killed people no longer curable?

A. Yes. The population discussed it, and I heard about it. The Party leadership never told me anything about it. We even enquired, but we could not get any information. Because we rejected that procedure as inhumane, we wanted to know what was the truth of it.

Q. One final question: You have heard a few points of the charges, and you have voiced your opinion regarding them; do you personally, in your opinion and in the opinion of the block and zellen leiters whom you know--do you consider them guilty of the crimes of the Party leadership?

A. No. Because we only performed according to orders. We could not make any effective petitions or protests. Even the Reichsstag didn't have the right to do that.

MR. McILWRAITH: Dr. Nath, you will make the witness understand that he must be here at two o'clock for cross-examination. We will now adjourn.

(The Commission adjourned until 1400 hours.)

D. McIlwraith
Commissioner

COM B.
TAKE 3. P.1.
OVERINGTON
28 JUNE 1946
1400 - 1530
WOLFF

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

M. Martin Harvard.

POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission, RE convened at 1430 hours.)

PAUL WOLFF, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY THE COMMISSIONER: The session is now open.

COL. GRIFFITH JONES: The position that we had reached at the adjournment was that I was about to start cross examining. Now, have you got the identity card which you were issued with when you became a Blockleiter?

A. No. We had to surrender those identity cards at the end of 1944 and they were destroyed.

Q. Why was that?

A. The Ortsgruppenleiter demanded such.

Q. What was the reason that he demanded the destruction of all your Blockleiter identity cards at the end of 1944?

A. He did not tell us the reason, but I guess the reason was to destroy the records.

Q. What could have been the object of destroying the records of who had been Blockleiters?

A. He possibly wanted to destroy the possibility of finding out names of people who were holding various positions.

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Q. Do you know if that was done by other Ortsgruppenleiters in other Gaus?

A. I do not know, I was only in the Gau of Saar-Pfalz.

Q. Now you told us that owing to war conditions in the latter years, Zellen and Blockleiters were not formally sworn in and were not issued with proper identity cards.

A. That is so.

Q. That made no difference to the work they were doing?

A. No, their function remained the same.

Q. Just before we adjourned this morning you were asked about your knowledge of what we call the Youthanasia

A. I mentioned already that officially I learned nothing through the Party and nothing through the State. It was just rumors spread through the population.

Q. I want to ask some questions on that. I understood that you went and asked your Political Leader about it?

A. Out of a purely human interest to know something about it.

Q. What rank of Political Leader was it that you asked? Was it your Ortsgruppenleiter or Kreisleiter?

A. It was just among ourselves - Block and Zellenleiters.

Q. You never made any enquiries?

A. No.

Q. I understood you to say that you had some evasive answers.

A. Yes.

Q. Do you mean by that that they did not appear willing to tell you what they knew?

A. No, they were simply sincere people.

Q. I only want to get it clear with the interpretation. Do you mean that

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they knew nothing more about it than yourself, or do you mean that they appeared to know something more but were unwilling to tell you?

A. No. In that instance they certainly did not know more than I did. We did not have any secrets.

Q. Now, it was part of your duties, was it not, to become acquainted with the political views of the members of your Block and Zell?

A. Not strictly, but we had frequent informal conversations with the people even those who did not belong to the Party.

Q. But the Block and Zellenleiter were supposed to be fully acquainted with the political views of members of their Block and Zell?

A. No, it was not strictly that way, although there existed some tendency in that direction. Of course, we ascertained in our many acquaintances what opinions the people had.

Q. Perhaps then you would look at document D-901a. You will see that is a circular directive dated 31 January 1941 issued by the Gauleiter of Cologne and it gives instructions for the filling up and keeping of card indexes of households. Did you, in your Gau, have to keep a card index of all households?

A. Yes, we had in our Gau similar household index cards of a certain size and color.

Q. Will you look at paragraph ten and in the second paragraph, under heading you will see that there was to be recorded in the index card the date that the person first subscribed to the "Völkischer Beobachter", it is half way through the second paragraph, and whether the family already possessed a swastika flag before 1935. What was the object of taking particulars of when they first subscribed to the Völkischer Beobachter and whether they owned a swastika flag before 1935?

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A. Such information was not put on the cards we used, that is all new to me.

Q. Can you imagine, speaking as a Block and Zellenleiter, what the purpose of putting those instructions down in the Gau of Cologne was?

A. If that was issued by the Gauleiter or the Gau-propaganda leiter of Cologne I suppose it was because he wanted to know of their attitude and how many stood by him.

Q. What did he want to know that for?

A. I cannot tell you that because we did not have any contacts with our superiors and we did not have any opportunity to converse with those men.

Q. Will you just look at the last two lines of that paragraph and it says "It is easy to obtain this data from a conversation by the Blockleiters with the Germans themselves." Was that the sort of thing that Blockleiters were supposed to do, converse with members of their Block to try and find out their political attitude?

A. No, that is certainly an exception.

Q. Would you look down to the last paragraph, number twelve. Do you see there it says that "The political judgment of every German is to be carried out by the Ortsgruppen Organizationsleiter in cooperation with the competent Block and Zellenleiter as well as in agreement with the Ortsgruppenleiter ...." Is that what you had to do?

A. If such instances occurred in my Block I simply went to the individual about whom political judgment was requested, in many cases it was a hired civil servant, and asked him about that data which referred in many respects to happenings which occurred while I didn't even live in my Block.

Q. What was the object of the Gauleiter of Cologne wanting his Blockleiters to find out the political attitude of members of his Block?

A. I have said before that it was probably only his intention to ascertain

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what part of the population was on his side and to ascertain whether his propaganda had been effective.

Q. Wasn't the object this that the Block and Zellenleiters formed a great spy system on the German community?

A. No. For that purpose one was much too familiar with each other. They knew me for ten or twelve years and aided each other and therefore one could not have been used as a spy.

Q. Now, please look at paragraph fourteen headed "Investigations about Germans and Party members", and it says that it is prohibited on principle to give Germans and Party members lists or index cards to fill in themselves. Why should they not be allowed to fill them in themselves?

A. There may be two reasons mentioned. One might be that in the filling out of the list by the people one could not read the handwriting and everything had to be transcribed again. The other reason was that people should not find out what was accumulated about them.

What Was wrong with people knowing about themselves or putting down information?

Q. Why should the people not know what was accumulated?

A. I cannot judge because the situation was not in our Gau and I do not know why it was kept secret in that Gau.

Q. That looks like the Block and Zellenleiters were acting as members of a spy system does not it?

A. You could take that point of view but it certainly was not that way in our Gau.

DR. NATH (Defense Counsel for the Political Leaders): I respectfully suggest that the Prosecution should ascertain whether these questions do not suggest to the witness to express opinions on situations in another Gau of which the witness had stated that he has no knowledge of.

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COL. GRIFFITH JONES: He comes as an expert on these matters and I am just asking him about questions connected with Zellen and Blockleiters. He has had a number of years experience in both positions and I must respectfully submit that I am entitled to ask him his opinion as being an expert on these matters.

COMMISSIONER: Have you numerous questions for the witness on this subject?

COL. GRIFFITH JONES: No. Perhaps you would allow me to put my last one or two questions on this point.

COMMISSIONER: If there are only one or two more questions we might continue on this subject.

COL. GRIFFITH JONES: Of course, these matters do go a little further than personal opinions. It's asking about the practice of Block & Zellenleiters generally. Just read down now to the next few lines. Owing to their frequent visits to the individual households the Blockleiters have sufficient opportunity to obtain the required data by means of conversation with the Germans so that the Blockleiter is finding this information out about the members of the community in secret.

A. If one takes the words as they are put here, my answer would be yes, but in my Gau those instructions would never have been given or acted on. They would not have been required to comply with such a request. I treated all people equally in free discussions ~~following instructions~~ even in instances where I knew that the individual was an enemy of the Party and all ~~also~~ individuals who are still alive could be questioned on that if you care we did not have any secrets at all.

Q. I ask you once again, what was the object of making those investigations and keeping that index - and I put the suggestion - was it so that the Nazi Party and its Political Leaders knew those members of the community who were willing to participate in the crimes which they were committing?

A. No, because the German people and the Political Leaders would not share

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in those crimes of which they had no knowledge.

Q. Well now, I am afraid I haven't got a German copy of it but it is PS-1969. In December 1940 a woman living in Fransconia wrote to the Ministry of the Interior complaining and protesting at the murder of her two invalid sisters in a nursing home and the Ministry of the Interior wrote back to the Gauleiter in Nurnberg saying this "I request that you investigate whether Mrs. Kehr is politically reliable, especially whether she does not have any church connections. In case this should not be so, from my side, there are no misgivings, if you give Kehr the desired information orally." There is an example/ isn't it, where the information that the Block and Zellenleiters were collecting about Mrs. Kehr's political reliability came in useful.

A. And I would say since that is an exceptional case and an error was made by that individual. I do not believe that something like that could have happened in our Gau. My last child was baptized in 1934 which proved that everybody knew that I maintained connections with the church. If that would have represented a general tendency within the Party the Party Leaders would certainly have rejected me. The thing which matters here and which is extremely difficult to prove which was the reason to prove me as ~~ex~~ Zellenleiter.

Q. I am not concerned with you yourself, I am just trying to check up and see whether the evidence that you have given as to the way in which you conducted your Zell applies to the other Zellenleiters. Now, in this case the Ortsgruppenleiter reported that the lady was calm and ~~ex~~ circumspect and that in his opinion she could be given the information. In order to find out whether she was politically reliable and had church connections the Ortsgruppenleiter would have to consult the records of the Block and Zellenleiter would he not?

A. No, that was not inevitably so. In a specific case, of course, the Ortsgruppenleiter could use other channels to determine the circumstances of that

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lady not necessarily needing the Zellen and Blockleiters.

Q. He would either ask the Block/ or Zellenleiter individually or he would refer to the index which the Block and Zellenleiter had made out for him?

A. Yes, that is reasonable to assume.

Q. Well now, we will leave that and pass on to another matter.

A. I have already stated that we did not work in our district in that way and my co-workers did not either.

Q. You know, do you not, that it was the policy of the Nazi Party to supress the churches so far as they dare?

A. No. That I did not know.

Q. Did you know that it was their aim to diminish, as far as possible, the influence of the Catholic and Evangelist churches?

A. No. In regard to that matter I would like to say that upon enquiries I was always told that the Party has a positive attitide towards the church and whenever certain instances were reported against the church I was told that it was just the incredible deeds against the individual which in no way reflected the attitude of the Party.

Q. But you knew did you not, and I thought you had said that they were reducing religous subjects in schools and substituting Nazi mottoes for prayers.

A. But that did not mean a complete suppression of religous matters.

Q. Were not the Block and Zellenleiters expected to assist so far as they could in that general policy?

A. No, because the carrying out of that measure depended essentially on the cooperation of the parents who were asked whether they wanted their child to attend a confessional school or a general school.

Q. Would you just look at this letter here which is D-901, and appears on page three of the English translation. You see that that is note by the

H0999-0024

Kreisleitung of Darmstadt in February 1939 and he writes: "Increased activity on the part of the confessional priests has been reported to me from various places. I am not yet in a position to judge finally whether this zeal is the result of special directions or whether the priests are having their say on their own initiative." Below he mentions four reports that he has received. Will you look at the first one, "The report of Ortsgruppenleiter Wimmer" and then in the brackets:("The S.D., Gestapo and the competent Ortsgruppenleiter will be instructed by me.)" Now where do you think Ortsgruppenleiter Wimmer would have got his information from about increasing church activity. Would not he be told by his Block and Zellenleiters?

A. In individual cases it may have been so, but I would like to say that the report on the information described in that report were mainly operated by the women.

Q. Just look again at this document at page one and there you can see the actual report that Ortsgruppenleiter Wimmer sent in. You see he starts it off - "As the caretaker of the communal building of the St. Martin's community, Blockleiter and party member Keil informs me that meetings of the Confessional Front are again taking place at the St. Martin's institute, Müllerstrasse, the public being excluded." Why should Blockleiter and party member Keil volunteer that information if he has not instructions to do all he can?

A. I still think that they were just individual acts of Mr. Keil because if he had belonged to the church he certainly would not have done that.

Q. Is it not rather extraordinary that from the apparently few documents which have fallen into our hands we should have found an instance like this and another instance like the letter I referred to about Mrs. Kehr, which were both quite exceptional circumstances. Isn't that rather an extraordinary thing?

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A. No, because the large masses of people including the Blockleiters remained with the population.

LT. COL. GRIFFITH JONES: No further questions.

FRENCH PROSECUTOR: I have a few questions.

Q. Did you live near Saarbruck?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know the villages Alte-Bremme and Goldene Bremme?

A. They were not really villages - they were just villages of a few isolated houses.

Q. Did youknow the concentration camp which was situationed between those two points?

A. Yes, I have justlearned of it now because there was a trial there held in connection with the concentration camp.

COL. ORLOW:

Q. For a long period of time you were a functionary of the Party. Is thatcorrect?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear, during thatperiod of time, of people who did not agree with thepolicy of the Party?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do in those instances?

A. I did not take any real action. Weconversed about the matter and exchanged opinions, and if there was a justifiable complaint, I tried to aid those people

Q. And if the conplaint concerned was very sharp and outspoken criticism of the State?

A. In such instances I very often had to agree with the men who complained, but there was actually nothing which could be done to remedy the situation because on all matters leading to our superiors were cut. There were no contacts with our superiors.

Q. And did you never report to the police on such instances?

A. No. They were not such serious matters. They were just remarks made in

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familiar, small circles. Just mere talk.

Q. Were there incidents of which you did tell the police?

A. Such severe complaints never reached us that we had to report about, the cause of the complaint to the police. They were just little trifles.

Q. You did notanswer my question. I asked whether there were instances of which you gave notice to the police. Yes or no?

A. No.

Q. Never?

A. No.

Q. Did you read the book "Mein Kampf"?

A. No, not all ofit.

Q. Did you never see thebook?

A. Yes, I did see it.

Q. You told us that you had heard about so called "mercy killings".

A. Yes.

Q. Did you approve of such an order?

A. No, never.

Q. Were there other measures of which you did not apporve?

A. Yes, plenty.

Q. What for instance?

A. For instance on the programs against the Jewish population. The mercy killings, then the order which had been published in the Wolkischer Beobachter although I did not read it, and because I was not a leader of the Volkischer Beobachter, the order that lynching of foreign airmen should be tolerated.

Q. What other examples?

A. Then the occasional incidents directed against the church. Then I did not approve of that glorification of the master race theory, thinking that the German

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people were selected to be a superior people. That I did not approve of.

Q. Did you inform your Ortsgruppenleiter that you disapproved of such matters?

A. Yes. I did not give such a complete summary as I just gave, but on occasions we touched on such matters and then I very frankly stated my objections.

Q. But nevertheless you remained a member of the Party?

A. Maybe he kept me in office because he needed me and on the other hand there continued a certain tie of myself personally to the Party - particularly in thelater years - when onewas told he could notgive up his position with the Party, without losing his position in general.

COMMISSIONER: We will have a recess of ten minutes now until the next witness arrives.

(The Commission recessed at 1515 hours)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of PAUL WOLFF, taken on 28 June 1946.

D J Wolf
Reporter (pp 1-14

June Overington
Reporter(pp 15-26

CERTIFIED TO: McIlwraith
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Commissioner

~~COMMISSIONER~~

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file

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

28 June 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. McIlwraith

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at 11:45 hours)

PAUL WOLF, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY MR. McILWRAITH:

Q Will you state your full name?

A Paul Wolf.

Q Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath)

BY DR. NATH:

The witness was a zellenleiter in Western Germany. I shall hear the witness regarding the tasks and duties of a zellenleiter in a rural district in Germany. The place is Saarbruecken in the Saar district. The witness is to be heard regarding the most essential charges regarding conspiracy -- which is to be seen particularly in certain points of the Party Program. I shall hear him regarding the persecution of the Jews, persecution of the Church, a few questions pertaining to the destruction of trade unions, euthanasia; and I shall ask him regarding the points made by the Prosecution -- war crimes, and breaches of the customs of war.

Q Will you please give a personal history very briefly?

A I was a locksmith. I worked at my profession. I was a soldier from 1914 to 1918. Again I worked at my profession. Beginning with 1923 I trained apprentices and craftsmen in technical schools. That is what I have done until now.

Q When did you join the Party and what were your motives?

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A I joined the Party on 3 December 1935. There was a certain pressure on the part of the authorities, and on the part of the Party. After the incorporation of the Saar District into the Reich, we received questionnaires which asked for Party membership.

Q Were you a member of another Party before 1933?

A No, before 1933 I did not belong to any Party.

Q Were you a trade union member before 1933?

A Yes, I was in theleague of technical industrial civil servants.

Q Give us the date of your having been block and zellen leiter.

A In March, 1938 I was given the office of blockleiter, and in March 1941 the duties of a zellenleiter.

Q Were you sworn in when you were a blockleiter ?

A Yes, I do not remember when, but in any case I was sworn in as blockleiter.

Q As a blockleiter, did you receive a political leader's certification card?

A Yes, I received a temporary identification.

Q How about when you were made zellenleiter?

A The war caused shortages of useable people for this post.

MR. McILWRAITH: That does not answer the question.

(The question is repeated).

A No, I received nothing, and nothing in writing either.

MR. McILWRAITH: Was that because there was a shortage in wartime-

A It was like this: We were only appointed temporarily. It was intended after the war, and even perhaps during the war time, to have these groups filled with full-time employees.

Q Were there directives to Party members to accept Party jobs?

A Yes. In my time it was already that way. As civil servants, we had to accept such jobs. Many authorities even asked their laborers to take some active part.

Q Was it permissable to resign from a Party office for political reasons?

A Yes, one could resign; but one immediately would have lost one's job. Thereason given was that rejection of the Party, since Party and

H0999-0030

State were one, meant the rejection of the State, also.

Q Will you first describe the tasks and duties of a blockleiter, and then those of a zellenleiter?

A Before the war, the main thing was to collect dues. Invitations to meetings were distributed. Lists were made concerning the composition of the district. Care was taken of wives of soldiers who were drafted, such as to bring them coal or chop wood for them. To help with the collection of clothes, shoes and paper. These were the tasks of the blockleiter.

Q What were the tasks of the zellenleiter?

A The zellenleiter presented the intermediary point between the ortsgruppenleiter and the blockleiter. They heard directives and transferred the results of these directives back to the ortsgruppenleiter.

Q Did the blockleiter have a staff?

A Whenever necessary, therewere simply aids. For instance, we lived on the edge of the city. The farms are far apart. It caused a lot of running around, and in those districts the aids wereput with practically the same tasks as the blockleiter. Those were usually women, or perhaps older school boys. There was no question of any staff, because the personnel changed constantly. Anyone might be told to do something.

Q The Prosecution has exempted the members of the staff of the ortsgruppenleiter from the charges. Were the block and zellen leiters the superiors of the members of the staff of the ortsgruppenleiter?

A No; quite the contrary. The amtsleiter gave us orders and directives.

Q The Prosecution has characterized block leiters as the "little Caesars terrorizing the residents of their blocks. They were the police In Hitler Germany." Will you please elucidiate?

A No. It was a relationship based on mutual confidence, for the people came when they were in need of any sort -- for instance, a woman didn't know which way to turn with all the work she had, children at home; and during the war one had to go and pick up things -- consumers good

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which otherwise had been delivered to the door. Women came and asked for help. If women had to make applications to some authority and did not know how to formulate it. I have done that several times; for instance, pertaining to insurance, indemnity claims; and once I procured a horse for a farmer. I took care of seeing the right people.

Q That's enough. Did the block and zellen leiters have authority to confiscate property or to deprive the residents of their section of life or liberty?

A That was impossible. If anything happened, we had the police. That was none of our business.

Q Were you authorized to request that the SA be sent to help you to execute your tasks?

A That, too, was impossible. The SA was an entirely independent organization which would not permit us to give them orders. On the contrary, we were ordered by the SA--that is to say, during wartime only. In the last period, caused by the air attacks, certain einsatzgruppen (commitment groups) were formed to remove rubble and to give aid. Here, always, SA people were the leaders.

Q Did the block and zellen leiters have any connection with any other Nazi organization--for instance, Gestapo and SD?

A No, there was no connection there at all.

Q Did the block and zellen leiters have to supervise Party officials and were they their superiors?

A Block and zellen leiters represented the lowest level of officials. Party officials were permitted to tell them anything or do anything about them. That was never their task, nor has anyone ever said anything like that.

Q The organization Book reads in one place that the blockleiter has to report to the ortsgruppenleiter any dissemination of rumors, so that the competent State authority may be notified. Did the superior Party authorities, or anybody else, ask the block and zellen leiters to inform on the residents of their block?

A No. Here, too, it was the other way around. It was supposed to

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be a relationship based on confidence. If anything really happened somewhere, one was to clarify matters and exert a calming influence. In no way were we supposed to disquiet the people by causing them to have a suspicion that someone may have maligned them.

Q Do you know of any case where a block and zellen leiter has informally talked to a resident and got his political opinion from him--and then reported him?

A No, I do not know of any such case in my own district.

Q Did you know, in your capacity as block and zellen leiter, the Organizations Book -- or doyou know its contents.

A No. I have never heard of it, and I never saw it--even at the ortsgruppe.

Q How many meetings took place within the ortsgruppenleiter where block and zellen leiters were asked to attand?

A Only on special occasions were block leiters asked to attend-when something pertaining to their particular duties came up. Zellen-leiters, however, twice weekly. We went there to pick up our directives. Everyone has a pigeonhole. Then the execution of the directive was clarified.

Q In your district, what were theprofessions which composed the block and zellen leiter group?

A With us it was the lower professional groups; for instance, telegraph operators, furnace stokers, mail and postal employees, artisans, carpenters, locksmiths.

Q Were there civil servants among you, too?

A There were civil servants--postal employees, railroad employees.

Q That is enough. I now wish to direct another question to you. The Organization Book characterizes the block and zellen leiter as hoheit-straeger. What was your concept of the meaning of "hoheitstraeger" and the concepts of the block and zellen leiters with whom you were acquainted'

A We never claimed that designation for ourselves. We never independently gave any politicaldirectives. We only received directives and transferred them. They were completely ready--either as an order or as a directive.

H0999-0033

or as a directive.

Q Who, in your opinion, exercised sovereign privileges and, consequently, can be called "hoheitstraeger"?

A The ortsgruppenleiter and, going up, the kreisleiter and the gauleiter. They did all that.

Q Was it like that until the end -- as long as you were a zellenleiter?

A Yes.

Q If the court permits, I should like to introduce four short documents into the records, which will prove that the Party leadership did not designate or recognize the block and zellen leiters as hoheitstraegers in practice. I have had the documents translated. Unfortunately, I was able to receive only the English and French translation up to this point. The documents are numbered, PL 1, 2, 3, 4. I shall quote the basic contents briefly: The first copy derives from the administration of the National Socialist German Workers Party, by Dr. Anton Link, who was on the staff of the Reich Treasury in Munich in 1940. I quote from Page 51, "The Hoheitstraeger Right of the NSDAP and its aspects."

"For the purpose

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Q Who, in your opinion, exercised sovereign privileges and, consequently, can be called "hoheitstraeger"?

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Q If the court permits, I should like to introduce four short documents into the records, which will prove that the Party leadership did not designate or recognize the block and zellen leiters as hoheitstraegers in practice. I have had the documents translated. Unfortunately, I was able to receive only the English and French translation up to this point. The documents are numbered, PL 1, 2, 3, 4. I shall quote the basic contents briefly: The first copy derives from the administration of the National Socialist German Workers Party, by Dr. Anton Link, who was on the staff of the Reich Treasury in Munich in 1940. I quote from Page 51, "The Hoheitstraeger Right of the NSDAP and its aspects." "For the purpose

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of fulfilling its task, the Party comprises four sovereign areas (1) Reich, (2) gau, (3) kreis, and (4) ortsgruppe. Each of these sovereign areas is headed by the hoheitstraeger, the Fuehrer, the gauleiter, the kreisleiter, the ortsgruppenleiter." The second document is issued by the Party Chancellery, dated 1937, and called "Decrees, Orders, and Announcements." It directs on the treatment of complaints, and tells the hoheitstraeger to treat complaints in a certain way. The pertinent paragraph of this document, at the end, reads, I quote, "The final decision in each case lies with the hoheitstraeger only; that is to say, the ortsgruppenleiter, the kreisleiter, the gauleiter, in the last resort, if the decision does not lie with the Fuehrer himself, with the Chief of the Party Chancellery." This enumeration shows the hoheitstraeger as they were in practice. Document 3 is dated ....

MR. McILWRAITH: Before you continue this, Dr. Nath...I think my translation is wrong. It says that the final decision...." and in the last resort", I have got the word "if"--"if the decision does not lie with the Fuehrer..."

COLONEL GRIFFITH-JONES: Yes, I think that is right.

INTERPRETER: It would mean "unless" the Fuehrer himself makes the decision.

MR. McILWRAITH: Yes, I see it now.

BY DR. NATH:

Q The third document is taken from the third volume of the same book, No. PL 3. The excerpt is from Page 301. It concerns itself with the care and relief by the Party for the armed forces with food parcels and donations, dated 24 February 1940. The directive shown here, under No. 4, I quote: "The hoheitstraeger of the Party--gauleiters, kreisleiters, and ortsgruppenleiters--with the participation of the formation of coordinated associations, are to arrange for the distribution of all available gifts to all persons drafted from their territories for service, regardless of whether or not they belong to the Party or one of its organizations." Here, too, the document enumerates the hoheitstraeger as they were in reality. The fourth document is taken from the official journal of the NSDAP, showing the figure 18, fourth series, 31-41. It is a publication of the year, 1941. It concerns itself with the entering of places which have suffered air raid damage. I want to point out especially that this is a decree of Hitler himself, which emanated from Fuehrer headquarters 25 April 1941. He designated certain persons to be authorized to enter damaged places while trying to repair that damage. Among these persons are mentioned the

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hoheitstraeger--Page II-c of the document enumerates the hoheitstraeger. I quote "The competent hoheitstraeger (ortsgruppenleiter, kreilleiter, gauleiter, or their representatives)." These four documents show that, in practice, block and zellen leiters were not considered to be hoheitstraegers. Were you acquainted with the publication, "Der Hoheitstraeger"?

A. I do not know of the publication, and this is the first time I have heard of it. I have never seen it at the office of the ortsgruppenleiter either.

Q Do you know whether the block and zellen leiter with whom you were acquainted belonged to the Christian religion?

A Yes.

Q Did these people participate in church services or processions?

A Those who were Catholics regularly attended services and took part in the processions. Enemies of the Party, or people of a different religion, can confirm this.

Q Did any Party authority direct the block and zellen leiter to resign from the Church?

A No.

Q The Corps of Political Leiters has been charged with participating in a conspiracy, the aims of which were crimes against peace, breach of the customs of war, and crimes against humanity. Certain parts of the Party Program are being sugmitted by the Prosecution on which to base their claim. I should like you to elucidate certain points of this program.

MR. McILWRAITH: How much longer will you be with this witness?

DR. NATH: Three quarters of an hour.

MR. McILWRAITH: Very well, then I will dismiss the other one until two o'clock.

BY DR. NATH:

Q Regarding the union of a greater Germany, Point One of the Party Program reads, "We demand the union of all Germans on the basis of the self-determinatio of all people." Will you please let us know your opinion from the point of view of the block and zellen leiter?

A The fourteen points of President Wilson mentioned the right of self-determination of all people.

COLONEL KAREV: We do not need any lectures on international law and the statements of President Wilson.

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DR. NATH: I think that the witness merely wants to make a short explanation regarding the fact that this point of the Party Program at that time did not mean that aggressive war would be the result. Will you please answer very briefly, Witness.

Q Did the block and zellen leiters consider this point as indicative of an aggressive war?

A No, it only wanted to bring the German people together.

Q How? Peacefully, or by war?

A Peacefully. During the last years in the Atlantic Charter, also, self-determination has been mentioned again and again.

Q Point Three of the Party Program reads: "We demand land and soil (colonies) in order to settle our surplus population and to increase the food of our people." Did the Political Leiters with whom you were acquainted consider this point of the Program as a plan of conquest of foreign territory?

MR. McILWRAITH: For how many Political Leaders can you speak?

WITNESS: In my district, there were about twenty.

DR. NATH: It is only a matter here that the evidence of the witness is typical.

MR. McILWRAITH: I want to know of how many it was typical, and now I have the answer.

DR. NATH: The witnesses were picked completely without forethought from all territories of the Reich.

BY DR. NATH:

Q Will you please answer the question?

A No; because this is how it was: We always had difficulty with food in Germany. One square kilo had to produce food for 135 persons. In France, there are nine, and in England, thirteen. That includes colonial possessions. And the Program point mentions specifically colonies. Thus, we thought that alleviation would be brought about by the return of the colonies.

Q What was the reaction of the block and zellen leiters in September 1939, when war broke out?

A Very regrettable, because everybody was depressed and serious. The lowest levels always suffer most.

Q Point Four of the Party Program mentions about the differentiation of the value races: "Only a person who is a volksgenosse can be a citizen, and a

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volksgenosse can be only someone of German blood, without regard to religion. That is why no jew can become a volksgenosse." This, no doubt, was disadvantageous to citizens of the Jewish faith, and in practice this point of the Program brought about the most horrible Jewish persecution. What was the understanding of this program point on the side of the Political Leiters to which you belonged -- that is to say, of the block and zellen leiters?

A No one could help being what he is; he is not responsible for his origin. In our opinion, it was wrong to fight against someone merely because he happened to be Jewish. This point of view was general with us.

Q I should like to consolidate. Did the block and zellen leiters consider the Party Program points as a basis for the conspiracy of conquest, both of their own nation and other nations, then to commit crimes against peace and against humanity?

MR. McILWRAITH: Those are two questions. Ask him two questions separately.

A No, because normally the thought of a peaceful solution prevailed. Block and zellen leiters were not made acquainted with the plans and intentions. The things didn't seem to go so far for us, because normally the block and zellen leiters did not bother much to interpret the individual parts.

BY DR. NATH:

Q Did block and zellen leiters have any way by which they might have influence on the laws?

A No; the block and zellen leiters had absolutely no influence on the passage of laws. The laws came to us ready-made, and there was nothing we could do.

Q Now, the struggle against the Church. The Prosecution has submitted Document PS 070, USA 371. It refers to National Socialist school celebrations. The letter comes from the deputy of the Fuehrer, and is addressed to Rosenberg: "The religious morning services in the schools are being got rid of. Similarly, in the different sections of the Reich, the religious as well as the general religious prayers were being substituted for National Socialist mottoes." Did the Party Leadership inform you on these things?

A We heard nothing from the Party leadership. Rather from the population, on whom it had an effect. In Saarland between 1936 and 1937 the denominational school was done away with. But the State did that--the Ministry of Education.

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The parents were asked whether they would decide in favor of a religious school or a denominational school.

Q Great numbers of ministers were arrested, put into concentration camps, and possessions of the Church were confiscated. Did the Party leadership inform the blockleiters of the reasons for these arrests and confiscations? Was it a task of the block and zellen leiter to participate in any manner in these things?

A No ministers were arrested in my district. I have heard of it from other districts or from the pulpit in the church. The newspapers distorted the facts. The block and zellen leiters had nothing to do with it at all.

Q In the ensuing period, the persecution of the Jews became worse and worse. Jews were designated by a yellow star, they received less food coupons, they were dispossessed of their apartments, finally they were deported and thrown into concentration camps. Will you please, in your capacity as block and zellen leiter, elucidate in particular whether the block and zellen leiters were concerned with that in any shape or way.

A The block and zellen leiters did not participate in it. Definitely not in our district. As far as I know the others, I do not think so either, because it did not come from our ortsgruppe. There was nothing there. That was a surprise for everybody; every decent person turned away from that.

MR, McILWRAITH: What was the population of your district?

WITNESS: Between five and six-hundred.

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MR. McILWRAITH: And how many blockleiters were there in it?

WITNESS: Five.

MR. McILWRAITH: And how many sellenleiters?

WITNESS: One.

DR. NATH: You stated before that you were acquainted with more.

WITNESS: That was a misunderstanding. I thought you were refering to the entire district.

BY DR. NATH:

Q. Regarding the destruction of the free trade unions. Do you know where the initiative for the destruction came from?

A. No, but it did not emanate from the Party. At that time the Saarland was not reincorporated into the Reich. I cannot say anything about the Reich.

Q. Were you acquainted with the Einsatzstab Rosenberg?

A. The first time I heard of it was right here in the Trials.

Q. Regarding the breach of the rules of war. Did the block and zellenleiter receive directives regarding the treatment of enemy fliers who had performed emergency landings?

A. No, never.

Q. Did you hear, directly or indirectly, from the Party that is someone should mistreat an enemy flier who made an emerfency landing, this person would not be punished for it?

A. No, but the newspapers sometimes published critical remarks. We did not receive any directives.

Q. Were the block and zellenleiter in any way connected with prisoners of war or foreign labor?

A. There were no directives. I did know foreign laboreres who worked as housemaids. There were well off. I have an address of someone who was in our neighborhood-a Ukrainian girl. She received dressed and shoes--and mail was even transmitted to her parents. There was a good relationship.

Q. Last question, Witness. Did you ever hear about euthanasia, by which physicians killed people no longer curable?

A. Yes. The population discussed it, and I heard about it. The Party leadership never told me anything about it. We even enquired, but we could not get any information. Because we rejected that procedure, as inhumane, we

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wanted to know what was the truth of it.

Q. One final question: You have heard a few points of the charges, and you have voiced your opnion regarding them; do you personally, in your opinion and in the opinion of the block and zellenleiters whom you know-- do you consider them guilty of the crimes of the Party leadership?

A. No. Because we only performed according to orders. We could not make any effective petitions or protests. Even the Reichstag didn't have the right to do that.

MR. MCILWRAITH: Dr. Nath, you will make the witness understand that he must be here at two o'clock for cross-examination. We will no adjourn.

(The Commission adjourned until 1400 hours).

(The Commission reconvened at 1430 hours.)

PAUL WOLFF, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY THE COMMISSIONER: The session is now open.

COL. GRIFFITH JONES: The position that we had reached at the adjournement was that I was about to start cross examining. Now, have you got the identity card which you were issued with when you became a Blockleiter?

A. No. We had to surrender these identity cards at the end of 1944 and they were destroyed.

Q. Why was that?

A. The Ortsgruppenleiter demanded such.

Q. What was the reason that he demanded the destruction of all your Blockleiter identity cards at the end of 1944?

A. He did not tell us the reason, but I guess the reason was to destroy the records.

Q. What could have been the object of destroying the records of who had been Blocklieters?

A. He possibly wanted to destroy the possibility of finding out names of people who were holding various positions.

Q. Do you know if that was done by other Ortsgruppenlieters in other Gaus?

A. I do not know, I was only in the Gau of Saar-Pfalz.

Q. Now you told us that owing to war conditions in the latter years, Zellen and Blocklieters were not formally sworn in and were not issued with proper identity cards.

A. That is so.

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Q. That made no difference to the work they were doing?

A. No, their function remained the same.

Q. Just before we adjourned this morning, you were asked about your knowledge of what we call the Youthanasia.

A. I mentioned already that officially I learned nothing through the Party and nothing through the State. It was just rumors spread through the population.

Q. I want to ask you some questions on that. I understood that you went and asked your Political Leader about it?

A. Out of a purely human interest to know something about it.

Q. What rank of Political Leader was it that you asked? Was it your Ortsgruppenleiter or Kriesleiter?

A. It was just among ourselves - Block and Zellenleiters.

Q. You never made any enquiries?

A. No.

Q. I understood you to say that you had some evasive answers.

A. Yes.

Q. Do you mean by that that they did not appear willing to tell you what they knew?

A. No, theywere simply sincere people.

Q. I only want to get it clear with the interpretation. Do you mean that they knew nothing more about it than yourself, or do you mean that they appeared to know something more, but were unwilling to tell you?

A. No. In that instance they certainly did not know more than I did. We did not have any secr ts.

Q. Now it was part of your duties, was it not, to become acquainted with the political views of the members of your Block and Zell?

A. No, it was not strictly that way, although thereexisted some tendency in that direction. Of course, we ascertained in our many acquaintances what opinions the people had.

Q. Perhaps then you would look at document D-901a. You will see that is a circular directive dated 31 January 1941, issued by the Gaulieter of Cologne, and it gives instructions for the filling up and keeping of card indexes of households. Did you, in your Gau, have to keep a card index of

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all households?

A. Yes, we had in our Gau similar household index cards of a certain size and color.

Q. Will you look at paragraph ten and in the second paragraph, under heading you will see that there was o be recorded in the index card the date that the person first subscribed to the "Volkischer Beobachter", it is half way through the second paragraph, and whether the family already possessed a swastika flag before 1935. What was the object of taking particulars of when they first subsribed to the "Volkischer Beobachter", and whether they owned a swastika flag before 1935?

A. Such information was not put on the cards we used, that is all new to me.

Q. Can you imagine, speaking as a Block and Zellenleiter, what the purpose of putting those instructions down in the Gau of Cologne was?

A. If that was issued by the Gauleiter or the Gau-propagandalieter of Cologne, I suppose it was because he wanted to know their attitude and how many stood by him.

Q. What did he want to know that for?

A. I cannot tell you, because we did not have any contacts with our superiors, and we did not have any opportunity to converse with those men.

Q. Will you just look at the last two lines of that paragraph and it says: "It is easy to obtain this data from a conversation by the Block-leiters with the Germans themselves". Was that the sort of thing that Blocklieters were supposed to do, converse with members of their Block and try to find out their political attitude?

A. No, that is certainly an exception.

Q. Would you look down to he last paragraph number twelve. Do you see there it says that "The policial judgement of every German is to be carried out by the Ortsgruppen Organizationsleiter in cooperation with the competent Block and Zellenleiter as well as in agreement with the Ortsgruppen-leiter...." Is that what you had to do?

A If such insta ces occurred in my Block, I simply went to the individual about whom political judgement was requested, in many cases it was a hired civil servant, and asked him that data which referred in many respects to happenings which occurred while I didn't even live in my Block.

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Q. What was the object of the Gaulieter of Cologne wanting his Blocklieters to find out the political attitude of members of his Block?

A. I have said before that it was probably only his intention to ascertain

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what part of the population was on his side and to ascertain whether his propaganda had been effective.

Q Wasn't the object this that the Block and Zellenleiters formed a great spy system on the German community?

A No. For that purpose one was much too familiar with each other. The knew me for ten or twelve years and aided each other and therefore one could not have been used as a spy.

Q Now, please look at paragraph fourteen headed "Investigations about Germans and Party members", and it says that it is prohibited on principle to give Germans and Party members lists or index cards to fill in themselves. Why should they not be allowed to fill them in themselves?

A There may be two reasons mentioned. One might be that in the filling out of the list by the people one could not read the handwriting and everything had to be transcribed again. The other reason was that people should not find out what was accumulated about them.

Q What was wrong with the people knowing about themselves or putting down information?

A I cannot judge because the situation was not in our Gau and I do not know why it was kept secret in that Gau.

Q That looks like the Block and Zellenleiters were acting as members of a spy system does not it?

A You could take that point of view but it certainly was not that way in our Gau.

DR. NATH (Defense Counsel for the Political Leaders): I respectfully suggest that the Prosecution should ascertain whether these questions do not suggest to the witness to express opinions on situations in another Gau of which the witness had stated that he has no knowledge of.

COL. GRIFFITH JONES: He comes as an expert on these matters and I am just asking him about questions connected with Zellen and Blockleiters. He has had a number of years experience in both position and I must respectfully submit that I am entitled to ask him his opinion as being an expert on these matters.

COMMISSIONER: Have you numerous questions for the witness on this

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COL. GRIFFITH JONES: No. Perhaps you would allow me to put my last one or two questions on this point.

COMMISSIONER: If there are only one or two more questions we might continue on this subject.

COL. GRIFFITH JONES: Of course, these matters do go a little further than personal opinions. Its asking about the practice of Block and Zellenleiters generally. Just read down now to the next few lines. Owing to their frequent visits to the individual households the Blockleiters have sufficient opportunity to obtain the required data by means of conversation with the Germans so that the Blockleiter is finding this information out about the members of the community in secret.

A. If one takes the words as they are put here, my answer would be yes, but in my Gau those instructions would never have been given or acted on. They would not have been required to comply with such a request. I treated all people equally in free discussions even in instances where I know that the individual was an enemy of the Party and all individuals who are still alive could be questioned on that if you care. We did not have any secrets at all.

Q. I ask you once again, what was the object of making those investigations and keeping that index - and I put the suggestion - was it so that the Nazi Party and its political Leaders knew those members of the community who were willing to participate in the crimes which they were committing?

A. No, because the German people and the Political Leaders would not share in those crimes of which they had no knowledge.

Q. Well now, I am afraid I haven't got a German copy of it but it is PS-1969. In December 1940 a woman living in Fransconia wrote to the Ministry of the Interior complaining and protesting at the murder of her two invalid sisters in a nursing home and the Ministry of the Interior wrote back to the Gauleiter in Nurnberg saying this "I request that you investigate whether Mrs. Kohr is politically reliable, especially whether she does not have any church connections. In case this should not be so, from my side, there are no misgivings, if you give Kohr the desired information orally.". There is an

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example, isn't it, where the information that the Block and Zellenleiters were collecting about Mrs. Kehr's political reliability came in useful.

A And I would say since that is an exceptional case and an error was made by that individual. I do not believe that something like that could have happened in our Gau. My last child was baptized in 1934 which proved that everybody knew that I maintained connections with the church. If that would have represented a general tendency within the Party the Party Leaders would certainly have rejected me. The thing which matters here and which is extremely difficult to prove which was the reason to prove me as Zellenleiter.

Q I am not concerned with you yourself, I am just trying to check up and see whether the evidence that you have given as to the way in which you conducted your Zell applies to the other Zellenleiters. Now, in this case the Ortsgruppenleiter reported that the lady was calm and circumspect and that in his opinion she could be given the information. In order to find out whether she was politically reliable and had church connections the Ortsgruppenleiter would have to consult the records of the Block and Zellenleiter would he not?

A No, that was not inevitably so. In a specific case, of course, the Ortsgruppenleiter could use other channels to determine the circumstances of that lady not necessarily needing the Zellen and Blockleiters.

Q He would either ask the Block or Zellenleiter individually or he would refer to the index which the Block and Zellenleiter had made out for him?

A Yes, that is reasonable to assume.

Q Well now, we will leave that and pass on to another matter.

A I have already stated that we did not work in our district in that way and my co-workers did not either.

Q You know, do you not, that it was the policy of the Nazi Party to supress the churches so far as they dare?

A No. That I did not know.

Q Did you know that it was their aim to diminish, as far as possible, the influence of the Catholic and Evangelist churches?

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A No. In regard to that matter I would like to say that upon enquiries I was always told that the Party has a positive attitude towards the church and whenever certain instances were reported against the church I was told that it was just the incredible deeds against the individual which in no way reflected the attitude of the Party.

Q But you knew did you not, and I thought you had said that they were reducing religious subjects in schools and substituting Nazi mottoes for prayers.

A But that did not mean a complete suppression of religious matters.

Q Were not the Block and Zellenleiters expected to assist so far as they could in that general policy?

A No, because the carrying out of that measure depended essentially on the cooperation of the parents who were asked whether they wanted their child to attend a confessional school or a general school.

Q Would you just look at this letter here which is D-901, and appears on page three of the English translation. You see that that is note by the Kreisleitung of Darmstadt in February 1939 and he writes: "Increased activity on the part of the confessional priests has been reported to me from various places. I am not yet in a position to judge finally whether this zeal is the result of special directions or whether the priests are having their say on their own initiative." Below he mentions four reports that he has received. Will you look at the first one, "The report of Ortsgruppenleiter Wimmer" and then in the brackets: (The SD, Gestapo and the competent Ortsgruppenleiter will be instructed by me.)" Now where do you think Ortsgruppenleiter Wimmer would have got his information from about increasing church activity. Would not he be told by his Block and Zellenleiters?

A In individual cases it may have been so, but I would like to say that the report on the information described in that report were mainly operated by the women.

Q Just look again at this document at page one and there you can see the actual report that Ortsgruppenleiter Wimmer sent in. You see he starts it off - "As the caretaker of the communal building of the St. Martin's community, Blockleiter and party member Keil informs me that meetings of the Confessional Front are again taking place at the St. Martin's institute,

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Müllerstrasse, the public being excluded." Why should Blockleiter and party member Koil volunteer that information if he has not instructions to do all he can?

A I still think that they were just individual acts of Mr. Koil because if he had belonged to the church he certainly would not have done that.

Q Is it not rather extraordinary that from the apparently few documents which have fallen into our hands we should have found an instance like this and another instance like the letter I referred to about Mrs. Kehr, which were both quite exceptional circumstances. Isn't that rather an extraordinary thing?

A No, because the large masses of people including the Blockleiters remained with the population.

LT. COL. GRIFFITH JONES: No further questions.

FRENCH PROSECUTOR: I have a few questions.

Q Did you live near Saarbruck?

A Yes.

Q Do you know the villages Alte-Bremme and Goldene Bremme?

A They were not really villages - they were just villages of a few isolated houses.

Q Did you know the concentration camp which was situated between those two points?

A Yes, I have just learned of it now because there was a trial there held in connection with the concentration camp.

COL. ORLOV:

Q For a long period of time you were a functionary of the Party. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Did you hear, during that period of time, of people who did not agree with the policy of the Party?

A Yes.

Q What did you do in those instances?

A I did not take any real action. We conversed about the matter and

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exchanged opinions, and if there was a justifiable complaint, I tried to aid those people.

Q And if the complaint concerned was very sharp and outspoken criticism of the State?

A In such instances I very often had to agree with the men who complained, but there was actually nothing which could be done to remedy the situation because on all matters leading to our superiors were cut. There were no contacts with our superiors.

Q And did you never report to the police on such instances?

A No. They were not such serious matters. They were just remarks made in familiar, small circles. Just more talk.

Q Were there incidents of which you did tell the police?

A Such severe complaints never reached us that we had to report about, the cause of the complaint to the police. They were just little trifles.

Q You did not answer my question. I asked whether there were instances of which you gave notice to the police. Yes or no?

A No.

Q Never?

A No.

Q Did you read the book "Mein Kampf"?

A No, not all of it.

Q Did you never see the book?

A Yes, I did see it.

Q You told us that you had heard about so called "mercy killings".

A Yes.

Q Did you approve of such an order?

A No, never.

Q Were there other measures of which you did not approve?

A Yes, plenty.

Q What for instance?

A For instance on the programs against the Jewish population. The mercy killings, then the order which had been published in the Volkischer Beobachter although I did not read it, and because I was not a leader of the Volkischer Beobachter, the order that lynching of foreign airmen should be

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tolerated.

Q What other examples?

A Then the occasional incidents directed against the church. Then I did not approve of that glorification of the master race theory, thinking that the German people were selected to be a superior people. That I did not approve of.

Q Did you inform your Ortsgruppenleiter that you disapproved of such matters?

A Yes. I did not give such a complete summary as I just gave, but on occasions we touched on such matters and then I very frankly stated my objections.

Q But nevertheless you remained a member of the Party?

A Maybe he kept me in office because he needed me and on the other hand there continued a certain tie of myself personally to the Party - particularly in the later years - when one was told he could not give up his position with the Party, without losing his position in general.

COMMISSIONER: We will have a recess of ten minutes now until the next witness arrives.

(The Commission recessed at 1515 hours)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of PAUL WOLFF, taken on 28 June 1946.

D. J. Noll
Reporter

June Overington
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

I.D. Mollwraith
Commissioner